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Patent No. 7,059,109  
Request for Reconsideration of Prior Art Document and  
Request for Certificate of Correction dated December 7, 2006  
Attorney Docket No.: 0388-031645

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

O I P E R T A I L S  
P A T E N T & T R A D E M A R K S  
DEC 11 2006

Patent No. : 7,059,109 Confirmation No. 4587

Inventors : Samejima et al.

Issued : June 13, 2006

Title : Mid-Mount Mower Having A Mower Unit Disposed Between A Front Wheel Unit And A Pair Of Right And Left Rear Wheels Arranged Rearwardly Of A Vehicle Body To Be Independently Shiftable

Examiner : Alicia Torres Group Art Unit 3671

Customer No. : 28289

Certificate  
DEC 14 2006  
of Correction

REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION OF  
PRIOR ART DOCUMENT AND  
CERTIFICATE OF CORRECTION OF PATENT

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

ATTENTION: Decision and Certificate of Correction  
Branch of the Patent Issue Division

Sir:

In accordance with 35 U.S.C. §255, we attach hereto Form PTO/SB/44 and proof of error and request that a Certificate of Correction be issued in the above-identified patent. The following error appears in the patent as printed:

- (1) Title Page, See Item 56, References Cited, insert the following:  
-- FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

JP 2000-351330 12/19/2000 Kubota Corp. --

(See the Information Disclosure Statement mailed March 2, 2004 and initialed by the Examiner on November 18, 2004. See also the copy of the Abstract and partial translation of the JP '330 reference which have been enclosed for the Examiner's convenience. When returning Form PTO/SB/08A, the Examiner initialed the U.S. Patent Document, but failed to initial the Foreign Patent Document.)

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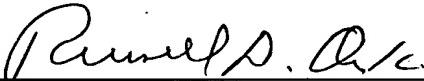
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Respectfully submitted,

THE WEBB LAW FIRM

By   
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**UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE  
CERTIFICATE OF CORRECTION**

Page 1 of 1

PATENT NO. : 7,059,109  
APPLICATION NO. : 10/649,332  
ISSUE DATE : June 13, 2006  
INVENTORS : Samejima et al.

It is certified that an error appears or errors appear in the above-identified patent and that said Letters Patent is hereby corrected as shown below:

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**PATENT APPLICATION**  
Serial No. 10/649,332  
Atty. Docket No. 388-031645

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Group Art Unit 3671 : Confirmation No. 4587  
In re Application of : **MID-MOUNT MOWER HAVING A MOWER**  
Kazuo SAMEJIMA et al. : **UNIT DISPOSED BETWEEN A FRONT WHEEL**  
Serial No. 10/649,332 : **UNIT AND A PAIR OF RIGHT AND LEFT REAR**  
Filed August 26, 2003 : **WHEELS ARRANGED REARWARDLY OF A**  
Examiner-Not Yet Assigned : **VEHICLE BODY TO BE INDEPENDENTLY**  
Customer No. : **SHIFTABLE**  
28289

Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

March 2, 2004

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**

Commissioner for Patents  
P. O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Pursuant to the requirements of 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.56, 1.97 and 1.98, Applicant hereby submits this Information Disclosure Statement together with a completed Form PTO/SB/08A and a copy of the foreign reference listed thereon.

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to Commissioner for Patents, P. O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on March 2, 2004.

Kay E. Yetter

(Name of Person Mailing Paper)

Signature

03/02/2004

Date

This application corresponds and claims priority to Japanese Application No. 2003-32271, filed February 10, 2003.

The relevance of Japanese unexamined Patent Application Publication No. 2000-351330 is indicated on page 1, lines 15-16 of the specification. A partial English language translation of JP 2000-351330 is enclosed herewith.

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b)(3), no fee is believed to be due for the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement, as it is being submitted before the mailing date of the first Office Action on the merits. Nevertheless, the Commissioner for Patents and Trademarks is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required to Deposit Account No. 23-0650. The original and two copies of this Information Disclosure Statement are enclosed.

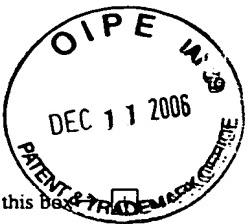
Respectfully submitted,

WEBB ZIESENHEIM LOGSDON  
ORKIN & HANSON, P.C.

By



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Facsimile: 412-471-4094



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PTO/SB/08A (08-00)

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<p>Substitute for form 1449A/PTO</p> <h1 style="text-align: center;">INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT</h1> <p style="text-align: center;">(use as many sheets as necessary)</p>				<b>Complete if Known</b>	
Sheet	1	Of	1	Application Number	10/649,332
				Filing Date	August 26, 2003
				First Named Inventor	Kazuo Samejima et al.
				Group Art Unit	3671
				Examiner Name	Not Yet Assigned
				Attorney Docket Number	388-031645

## **U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS**

## **FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS**

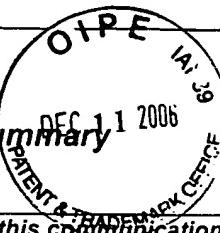
Examiner Signature		Date Considered	
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\*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

<sup>1</sup>Unique citation designation number. <sup>2</sup>See attached Kinds of U.S. Patent Documents. <sup>3</sup>Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). <sup>4</sup>For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. <sup>5</sup>Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible. <sup>6</sup>Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

**Burden Hour Statement:** This form is estimated to take 2.0 hours to complete. Time will vary depending upon the needs of the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you are required to complete this form should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, Washington, D.C. 20231.

**Office Action Summary**



Application No.

10/649,332

Applicant(s)

SAMEJIMA ET AL.

Examiner

Alicia M Torres

Art Unit

3671

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 26 August 2003.
- 2a) This action is FINAL.                            2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) Claim(s) 1-6 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1-3' is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) 4-6 is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).  
a) All    b) Some \* c) None of:
  1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)   | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)                     |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)  | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ .  |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>3/4/04</u> . | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
|   | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ .                                  |



Please type a plus sign (+) inside this box → +

PTO/SB/08A (08-00)

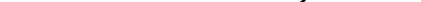
Approved for use through 10/31/2001. OMB 0651-0031  
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				Application Number	10/649,332
				Filing Date	August 26, 2003
				First Named Inventor	Kazuo Samejima et al.
				Group Art Unit	3671
				Examiner Name	Not Yet Assigned
				Attorney Docket Number	388-031645
Sheet	1	Of	1		

## **U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS**

## **FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS**

Examiner Signature		Date Considered	11/18/04
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**\*EXAMINER:** Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

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{W0108592.1}

## RIDING TYPE LAWN MOWER

Patent Number: JP2000351330  
Publication date: 2000-12-19  
Inventor(s): SAMEJIMA KAZUO; TOGOSHI YOSHIKAZU; DOBASHI HIRONORI; EZAKI YOSHIYUKI  
Applicant(s): KUBOTA CORP  
Requested Patent:  JP2000351330  
Application Number: JP19990162513 19990609  
Priority Number(s):  
IPC Classification: B60K11/04; A01D34/64  
EC Classification:  
Equivalents:

### Abstract

**PROBLEM TO BE SOLVED:** To improve the strength of collision resistance of a rear end part of a vehicle body at the time of turn and front and rear balance in riding type lawn mower of speed differential steering type in which the mower is arranged between a drive rear wheel and a follow-up steering front wheel and a transmission and an engine are arranged in front of and in the back of the rear wheel, respectively.

**SOLUTION:** HSTs 8 are mounted per a pair of left and right drive wheels 2, 2, a driver's seat is arranged on the front side of an engine 3, and a radiator 25 is arranged between the front and rear of the driver's seat and the engine 3. A guide plate for performing suction of an HST fan 48 from below the engine is provided below the radiator 25.

Data supplied from the esp@cenet database - I2

Partial Translation of  
**Japanese Unexamined Patent Application Publication**

**2000-351330**

Filed: June 9, 1999

Laid-Open: December 19, 2000

[Brief Description of the Drawings]

[Fig. 1] Side elevation of a riding lawn mower;

[Fig. 2] Plan view of the riding lawn mower;

[Fig. 3] Plan view showing a structure of the vehicle's lower region;

[Fig. 4] Front view showing a region including a transmission case and a driver's seat;

[Fig. 5] Side elevation partially cut away showing a structure of the vehicle's rearward region;

[Fig. 6] Enlarged side elevation of a primary portion illustrating a raising/lowering mechanism of a mower unit;

[Fig. 7] Side elevation showing a vehicle framework structure; and

[Fig. 8] Plan view showing the vehicle framework structure.

[0022]

[Embodiment of the Invention]

One embodiment of the present invention will be described hereinafter with reference to the drawings. Figs. 1 and 2 show a riding lawn mower having a mower unit mid-mounted at an underside of the vehicle body between a front wheel unit and a rear wheel unit. In the drawings, reference sign 1 denotes a pair of, right and left, dirigible front wheels; 2 - a pair of, right and left, driving rear wheels; 3 - an engine; 4 - a transmission case; 5 - a mower unit, 6 - a driver's seat; 7 - a link mechanism suspending the mower unit 5 for raising and lowering the same; and F - a vehicle framework. This lawn mower further includes HSTs (an example of a stepless change speed mechanism switchable between forward and rearward directions) 8, so that the two front wheels 1 are steered and driven based on a difference in speed between the two rear wheels 2.

[0023]

As shown in Figs. 7 and 8, the vehicle framework F includes a main framework "f" having a rear framework 11 for supporting the water-cooling diesel engine 3 and the transmissions case 4, and a forward framework 12 suspending the mower unit 5; and further includes an upper framework 13 connected integral with the main framework "f" for supporting the driver's seat 6. The rear framework 11 includes a pair of, right and left plate frames 9, 9; a rear-end cross frame 14 connecting these plate frames 9, 9 at respective rear ends

thereof; and an intermediate cross frame 15 connecting the plate frames 9, 9 at respective longitudinal intermediate positions thereof.

[0024]

The forward framework 12 includes a square pipe material 10 bent into a "U" open forward in plan view and welded to the plate frames 9, 9 at respective longitudinal front ends thereof; and a front end cross frame 16 interconnecting right and left front ends of the plate frames 9, 9. The upper framework 13 includes a pair of, right and left rear posts 18, 18 erected from the plate frames 9, 9 at respective positions adjacent, in a fore and aft direction, to a rear axle 17; a pair of, right and left front posts 19, 19 standing so as to ride over respective front ends of the plate frames 9, 9 and a rear end of the square pipe material 10; a pair of, right and left upper longitudinal frames 20, 20 interconnecting the rear posts 18, 18 and the front posts 19, 19, respectively; and, front and rear, upper cross frames 21, 22 each interconnecting these upper longitudinal frames 20, 20.

\*\*\*\*\*

MID-MOUNT MOWER HAVING A MOWER UNIT DISPOSED  
BETWEEN A FRONT WHEEL UNIT AND A PAIR OF RIGHT AND  
LEFT REAR WHEELS ARRANGED REARWARDLY OF A VEHICLE  
BODY TO BE INDEPENDENTLY SHIFTABLE

5

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

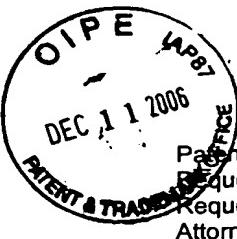
Field of the Invention

This invention relates to a mid-mount mower having a mower unit  
10 mounted between a front wheel unit and a pair of right and left rear wheels  
arranged rearwardly of a vehicle body to be independently shiftable.

Description of the Related Art

- 15 A riding mid-mount mower, known from Japanese Unexamined Patent Application Publication 2000-351330, includes a body frame having a pair of right and left front longitudinal frames and a pair of right and left rear longitudinal frames. The front longitudinal frames support front wheels and suspend a mower unit through links. Each rear longitudinal frame is  
20 connected to a rear wheel drive section. The right and left front longitudinal frames are connected to each other through forward and rearward cross frames. The front longitudinal frames and the rear longitudinal frames are connected through the rearward cross frame.
- 25 A riding mower keeps a mower unit in a raised position during a non-operational run. When the mower runs over a rough terrain or rides over a curb, it is desirable to raise the mower unit to a higher position to avoid contact with the ground. In this type of mower, a gear case is protrusively mounted on a deck of the mower unit to convert torque  
30 transmitted in a longitudinal direction from a PTO shaft disposed in a rear

CJC



Patent No. 7,059,109  
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**COPY**

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Patent No.	:	7,059,109	Confirmation No. 4587	<b>Certificate</b>
Inventors	:	Samejima et al.		DEC 14 2006
Issued	:	June 13, 2006		<b>of Correction</b>
Title	:	Mid-Mount Mower Having A Mower Unit Disposed Between A Front Wheel Unit And A Pair Of Right And Left Rear Wheels Arranged Rearwardly Of A Vehicle Body To Be Independently Shiftable		
Examiner	:	Alicia Torres	Group Art Unit 3671	
Customer No.	:	28289		

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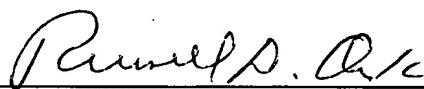
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Respectfully submitted,

THE WEBB LAW FIRM

By \_\_\_\_\_



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Registration No. 25,363  
Attorney for Patentees  
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Telephone: (412) 471-8815  
Facsimile: (412) 471-4094

**UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE  
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Page 1 of 1

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APPLICATION NO. : 10/649,332  
ISSUE DATE : June 13, 2006  
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Serial No. 10/649,332  
Atty. Docket No. 388-031645

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Kazuo SAMEJIMA et al. :  
  
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Filed August 26, 2003 :  
  
Examiner-Not Yet Assigned :  
  
Customer No. : 28289

Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

March 2, 2004

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Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

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Kay E. Yetter

(Name of Person Mailing Paper)

Signature

03/02/2004

Date

This application corresponds and claims priority to Japanese Application No. 2003-32271, filed February 10, 2003.

The relevance of Japanese unexamined Patent Application Publication No. 2000-351330 is indicated on page 1, lines 15-16 of the specification. A partial English language translation of JP 2000-351330 is enclosed herewith.

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b)(3), no fee is believed to be due for the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement, as it is being submitted before the mailing date of the first Office Action on the merits. Nevertheless, the Commissioner for Patents and Trademarks is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required to Deposit Account No. 23-0650. The original and two copies of this Information Disclosure Statement are enclosed.

Respectfully submitted,

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PTO/SB/08A (08-00)

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<p>Substitute for form 1449A/PTO</p> <h1>INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT</h1> <p>(use as many sheets as necessary)</p>				<p>Complete if Known</p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td>Application Number</td> <td>10/649,332</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Filing Date</td> <td>August 26, 2003</td> </tr> <tr> <td>First Named Inventor</td> <td>Kazuo Samejima et al.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Group Art Unit</td> <td>3671</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Examiner Name</td> <td>Not Yet Assigned</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Attorney Docket Number</td> <td>388-031645</td> </tr> </table>		Application Number	10/649,332	Filing Date	August 26, 2003	First Named Inventor	Kazuo Samejima et al.	Group Art Unit	3671	Examiner Name	Not Yet Assigned	Attorney Docket Number	388-031645
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Sheet	1	Of	1														

## **U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS**

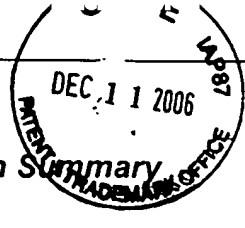
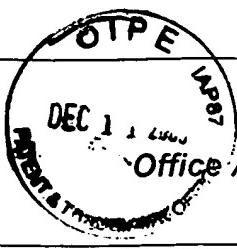
## **FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS**

Examiner Signature		Date Considered	
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\*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

<sup>1</sup>Unique citation designation number. <sup>2</sup>See attached Kinds of U.S. Patent Documents. <sup>3</sup>Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). <sup>4</sup>For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. <sup>5</sup>Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible. <sup>6</sup>Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

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Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	10/649,332	SAMEJIMA ET AL.
	Examiner Alicia M Torres	Art Unit 3671

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

#### Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

#### Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 26 August 2003.
- 2a) This action is FINAL.                    2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

#### Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-6 is/are pending in the application.
  - 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1-3 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) 4-6 is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

#### Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

#### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
  - a) All    b) Some \* c) None of:
    1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
    2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
    3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

#### Attachment(s)

- 1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 3/4/04.
- 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. \_\_\_\_\_.
- 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) Other: \_\_\_\_\_.



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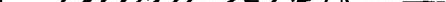
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Sheet	1	Of	1		

## **U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS**

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Examiner Signature		Date Considered	11/13/04
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{W0108592.1}

DEC. 11 2006

**RIDING TYPE LAWN MOWER**

Patent Number: JP2000351330

Publication date: 2000-12-19

Inventor(s): SAMEJIMA KAZUO; TOGOSHI YOSHIKAZU; DOBASHI HIRONORI; EZAKI YOSHIYUKI

Applicant(s): KUBOTA CORP

Requested Patent:  JP2000351330

Application Number: JP19990162513 19990609

Priority Number(s):

IPC Classification: B60K11/04; A01D34/64

EC Classification:

Equivalents:

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**Abstract**

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**PROBLEM TO BE SOLVED:** To improve the strength of collision resistance of a rear end part of a vehicle body at the time of turn and front and rear balance in riding type lawn mower of speed differential steering type in which the mower is arranged between a drive rear wheel and a follow-up steering front wheel and a transmission and an engine are arranged in front of and in the back of the rear wheel, respectively.

**SOLUTION:** HSTs 8 are mounted per a pair of left and right drive wheels 2, 2, a driver's seat is arranged on the front side of an engine 3, and a radiator 25 is arranged between the front and rear of the driver's seat and the engine 3. A guide plate for performing suction of an HST fan 48 from below the engine is provided below the radiator 25.

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**Partial Translation of  
Japanese Unexamined Patent Application Publication**

**2000-351330**

**Filed: June 9, 1999**

**Laid-Open: December 19, 2000**

**[Brief Description of the Drawings]**

[Fig. 1] Side elevation of a riding lawn mower;

[Fig. 2] Plan view of the riding lawn mower;

[Fig. 3] Plan view showing a structure of the vehicle's lower region;

[Fig. 4] Front view showing a region including a transmission case and a driver's seat;

[Fig. 5] Side elevation partially cut away showing a structure of the vehicle's rearward region;

[Fig. 6] Enlarged side elevation of a primary portion illustrating a raising/lowering mechanism of a mower unit;

[Fig. 7] Side elevation showing a vehicle framework structure; and

[Fig. 8] Plan view showing the vehicle framework structure.

**[0022]**

**[Embodiment of the Invention]**

One embodiment of the present invention will be described hereinafter with reference to the drawings. Figs. 1 and 2 show a riding lawn mower having a mower unit mid-mounted at an underside of the vehicle body between a front wheel unit and a rear wheel unit. In the drawings, reference sign 1 denotes a pair of, right and left, dirigible front wheels; 2 - a pair of, right and left, driving rear wheels; 3 - an engine; 4 - a transmission case; 5 - a mower unit, 6 - a driver's seat; 7 - a link mechanism suspending the mower unit 5 for raising and lowering the same; and F - a vehicle framework. This lawn mower further includes HSTs (an example of a stepless change speed mechanism switchable between forward and rearward directions) 8, so that the two front wheels 1 are steered and driven based on a difference in speed between the two rear wheels 2.

[0023]

As shown in Figs. 7 and 8, the vehicle framework F includes a main framework "f" having a rear framework 11 for supporting the water-cooling diesel engine 3 and the transmissions case 4, and a forward framework 12 suspending the mower unit 5; and further includes an upper framework 13 connected integral with the main framework "f" for supporting the driver's seat 6. The rear framework 11 includes a pair of, right and left plate frames 9, 9; a rear-end cross frame 14 connecting these plate frames 9, 9 at respective rear ends

thereof; and an intermediate cross frame 15 connecting the plate frames 9, 9 at respective longitudinal intermediate positions thereof.

[0024]

The forward framework 12 includes a square pipe material 10 bent into a "U" open forward in plan view and welded to the plate frames 9, 9 at respective longitudinal front ends thereof; and a front end cross frame 16 interconnecting right and left front ends of the plate frames 9, 9. The upper framework 13 includes a pair of, right and left rear posts 18, 18 erected from the plate frames 9, 9 at respective positions adjacent, in a fore and aft direction, to a rear axle 17; a pair of, right and left front posts 19, 19 standing so as to ride over respective front ends of the plate frames 9, 9 and a rear end of the square pipe material 10; a pair of, right and left upper longitudinal frames 20, 20 interconnecting the rear posts 18, 18 and the front posts 19, 19, respectively; and, front and rear, upper cross frames 21, 22 each interconnecting these upper longitudinal frames 20, 20.

\*\*\*\*\*

MID-MOUNT MOWER HAVING A MOWER UNIT DISPOSED  
BETWEEN A FRONT WHEEL UNIT AND A PAIR OF RIGHT AND  
LEFT REAR WHEELS ARRANGED REARWARDLY OF A VEHICLE  
BODY TO BE INDEPENDENTLY SHIFTABLE

5

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

Field of the Invention

This invention relates to a mid-mount mower having a mower unit  
10 mounted between a front wheel unit and a pair of right and left rear wheels  
arranged rearwardly of a vehicle body to be independently shiftable.

Description of the Related Art

- 15 A riding mid-mount mower, known from Japanese Unexamined Patent Application Publication 2000-351330, includes a body frame having a pair of right and left front longitudinal frames and a pair of right and left rear longitudinal frames. The front longitudinal frames support front wheels and suspend a mower unit through links. Each rear longitudinal frame is  
20 connected to a rear wheel drive section. The right and left front longitudinal frames are connected to each other through forward and rearward cross frames. The front longitudinal frames and the rear longitudinal frames are connected through the rearward cross frame.
- 25 A riding mower keeps a mower unit in a raised position during a non-operational run. When the mower runs over a rough terrain or rides over a curb, it is desirable to raise the mower unit to a higher position to avoid contact with the ground. In this type of mower, a gear case is protrusively mounted on a deck of the mower unit to convert torque  
30 transmitted in a longitudinal direction from a PTO shaft disposed in a rear